HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1956.

MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

Damascus Chapel, Orange County, N. C.

October 9th, 10th and 11th, 1862.

HILLSBOROUGH:

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MINUTES.

DAMASCUS, N. C., October 9, 1862, 9 o'clock, P. M.

The "NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE" met, pursuant to adjournment last year, with the Church at Damascus, Orange county, N. C., in its thirty-seventh annual session.

Conference was called to order by Elder Solomon Apple, President of the last session.

Singing, and prayer by Elder J. R. Holt.

On motion, the Conference proceeded to the election of permanent officers, which resulted in the unanimous election of Solomon Apple, President; W. K. Martin, Vice President; W. S. Long, Secretary; C. A. Apple, Assistant Secretary.

On motion, the names of ministers and delegates were enrolled.

Elders present—G. G. Walker, D. T. Deanes, W. N. Bragg, J. R. Holt, T. G. Craven, J. McCulloch, J. N. Manning, Solomon Apple, E. W. Beale, J. N. Farrell, A. G. Anderson, T. J. Fowler, P. W. Allen, R. G. Tinnin.

Elders absent—J. W. Wellons, B. N. Hopkins, H. B. Hayes, A. Franks, J. I. Hobby, W. M. Craven, Joseph Albright, W. H. Doherty, A. Iseley, A. Apple, L. Lambeth, W. S. Jordan, Wm. Rollins, A. S. Lelson, Thomas Truitt, A. Craven, Chastien Allen, J. S. Swift.

Licentiates present—W. S. Long, J. Goodrich, C. A. Apple, W. H. Martin, W. D. Moffit, W. H. Franks, L. C. Madison.

Licentiates absent—P. R. Jones, A. T. Rich, Abner Apple, J. S. Lawrence, C. A. Boon.

Delegates—H. Hearn, H. Hatch, Wm. Bland, A. M. Carlton, B. Ansley, C. Landling, J. C. Ursery, M. C. Winston, J. W. Davis, J. W. Boyd, W. C. Wilson, C. Ellis, J. McIver, W. Dicken, D. B. McLead, J. Couch, G. Nevell, M. Murchison, J. H. Long, Joseph G. Long, A. Graham, J. Lynch, J. McAdams.

On motion, the President was requested to appoint the usual committees as soon as practicable.

On motion, Conference adjourned, to hear the address at 2 o'clock,

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October 9, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened according to adjournment.

After singing, Conference was entertained by an able and eloquent address by Rev. C. A. Apple.

The President then announced the following committees:

On Ordination—J. R. Holt, A. G. Anderson, J. N. Manning, Joseph McCulloch, T. J. Fowler.

On the Character and Standing of Ministers—J. W. Boyd, M. C. Winston, James McAdams, Albert Graham, J. W. Davis.

On Home Missions—J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, W. N. Bragg.

On Statistics—E. W. Beale, J. N. Ferrell, C. A. Apple.

On Temperance—A. Isley, G. G. Walker, R. G. Tinnin.

On Sabbath Schools—J. McCulloch, Thomas Craven, J. Goodrich.

On Memoirs—D. T. Deanes, W. N. Bragg, E. W. Beale.

On Finance—C. A. Apple, W. D. Moffit, John Goodrich.

On Ministerial Supply—Jos. McCulloch, A. M. Carl-

ton, William Bland, J. W. Boyd, M. C. Winston, M. Murchison, W. Dicken.

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three to consider the propriety of printing the Conference address.

The President announced the following brethren as a committee on the above resolution, viz: J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, J. McCulloch.

On motion, the letters from the various Churches were received and read.

On motion, the committee appointed to examine candidates for the ministry was authorized to examine candidates both for license and ordination.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Singing, and prayer by Elder W. N. Bragg.

October 10, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. Singing, and prayer by Elder G. G. Walker.

On motion, the contributions of the various Churches for the Conference fund were called for and received. See Appendix.

On motion, a committe was appointed to investigate the case of J. I. Hobby. Committee, A. G. Anderson, T. J. Fowler, R. G. Tinnin.

Resolved, That Rev. W. S. Long be requested to deliver the next annual address, and Rev. W. D. Moffit be appointed his alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body be and are hereby tendered to the proprietors of the Petersburg Express, the Raleigh Standard, and other papers, for advertising its meeting free of charge.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

October 10, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Conference met agreeable to adjournment, and was called to order by the Vice President.

There being no business claiming the present consideration of Conference, a recess was allowed in order that the various committees might have time to consider the business in their hands.

After a short recess Conference again convened.

On motion, Brother C. A. Boon was received as a member of Conference.

On motion, the following report of the committee authorized to correspond with the Freewill Baptists was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee appointed to correspond with the Freewill Baptist Church, beg leave to report, that we have not had any correspondence with that body.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. Fowler, *Chairman.*

On motion, the following report on Memoirs was received and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee on Memoirs, beg leave to report. We are pained to inform this body, that since our last meeting God in his infinite wisdom has seen fit to remove from the toils and labors of earth to the reward of the righteous in heaven, our esteemed and much beloved brethren in the ministry, William S. Jordan and Thomas E. Jeter. In the death of these brethren, this Conference has sustained a very great loss, and the cause of Christ two of her most zealous advocates. In view of which we present the following resolutions:

Resolved, That whilst we bow in humble submission to this sad dispensation, we sincerely hope that our loss has been their eternal gain.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved our condolence in their sad affliction.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the families of the deceased.

Respectfully submitted,

D. T. DEANES, *Chairman*.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to report on the condition of the country. Committee, E. W. Beale, W. N. Bragg, C. A. Apple.

Resolved, That the next meeting of this Conference be held with the Church at New Providence, Alamance county, N. C., to commence Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1863.

On motion, the former Conference committee was re-elected for the ensuing year, viz: J. R. Holt, J. N. Manning, W. H. Read.

Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Singing, and prayer by Elder Farrell.

October 11, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Conference convened according to adjournment. Singing, and prayer by Elder E. W. Beale.

On motion, the report of the committee on the character and standing of the ministers, was returned to the committee.

On motion, the following report on the condition of the country was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Whereas the present deplorable condition of our beloved country calls for the sympathy and efforts of both Church and State in order that she may be preserved amid the perils which threaten her on every hand; and whereas our prosperity, national as well as religious, depends on the help of Divine Providence; Therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That, though we have no desire to interfere in political affairs, yet we claim the common privilege granted to all citizens, of expressing our views in a manner becoming christian men.

2. *Resolved*, That the cause of the Confederate States is in every sense our own cause, that her destiny is our destiny, that we will stand or fall with her, and that to the achievement of her independence we will devote everything which we hold dear on earth.

3. *Resolved*, That we will endeavor to impress our people with the importance of looking more earnestly, in this matter, to the help of Almighty God.

4. *Resolved*, That, in order to secure Divine assistance, it is necessary that we should set our faces against the many corruptions which are being practiced in this land; and especially would we enjoin upon our ministers and brethren generally, the importance of using their influence and example against the fearful sin of extortion.

5. *Resolved*, That we recommend every Church to meet at least once every month for the special purpose of invoking God's blessing upon our arms, and of entreating that he would soon cheer us with the smiles of peace.

6. *Resolved*, That our thanks are due the Great Disposer of events for the mercies he has shown us in days past, and that in his wisdom and goodness we will humbly confide in days to come. Respectfully submitted.

E. W. Beale, *Chairman.*

On motion, the following resolution was unanimonsly adopted:

Resolved, That the first hour of the afternoon session of to-day be set apart for special prayer in behalf of our bleeding country.

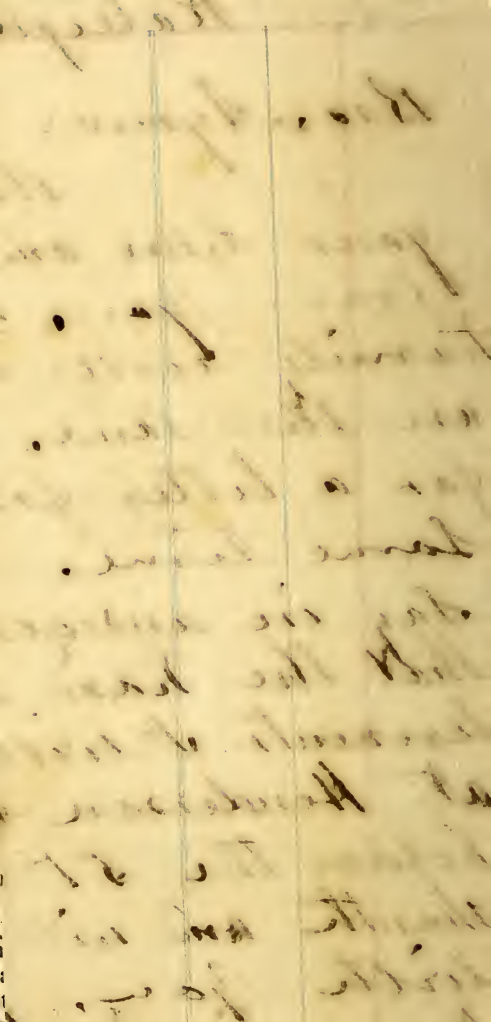
On motion, the report of the committee on printing the Conference address was laid upon the table.

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of five elders to examine all candidates for the ministry,

Raleigh Augst 22. 1862

Bro. Aycue.

Dear Sir I receved your letter and was glad to hear from you. this leaves me and Family well hope you and yours are the same. I have been looking for a letter from you for some time. And I will now say in answer to your request that the Lord willing and nothing prevents I will indever to be at Henderson Saturday morning before the 1st Sabboth in this month and will be glad to meet with you. give my respects to your Family and all the friends no more but remain your Bro in Christ W. W. Bragg



either for license or ordination, who may apply at our next Conference. Committee, J. R. Holt, A. G. Anderson, J. N. Manning, A. Iseley, T. J. Fowler.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to consider the propriety of printing the minutes of this Conference. Committee, J. McCulloch, G. G. Walker, W. H. Martin.

On motion, the following report of the examining committee was receive:

REPORT.

For License.—The first candidate, Bro. Bennet Ansley, appeared before the committtee. He makes small pretensions to literary qualification; his knowledge embracing only reading, writing, and a partial study of the Scriptures. His claims, therefore, are returned to Conference, based only upon the recommendations of the Churches, his well-known piety and zeal, and his usefulness hitherto.

For Ordination.—Bro. A. C. Apple has passed a satisfactory examination in all the requisite studies, and is recommended for ordination.

Bro. W. S. Long sustained a satisfactory examination in all the requisite branches, and is recommended for ordination.

Bro. J. Goodrich based his claim for ordination on a partial literary course; more especially on his knowledge of the Scriptures, and his former usefulness and acceptance with the Churches. He, therefore, is a fair subject for Conference.

Bro. W. D. Moffit sustained an examination which justifies the committee in assuming the responsibility of recommending his ordination.

Respectfully submitted.

J. R. Holt, *Chairman.*

Of the persons included in the above report, C. A. Apple, W. S. Long and W. D. Moffit were ordained, and Bennet Ansley was licensed.

On motion, a Presbytery was appointed for the ordination of the brethren recommended, at 11 o'clock, Sunday morning. Presbytery, Solomon Apple, T. J. Fowler, J. N. Manning.

The committee on Sabbath Schools reported. Report read, received and adopted.

REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred the subject of Sabbath Schools, beg leave to report. We feel deeply impressed with the worth of Sabbath Schools, and the only question, it seems to us, for our consideration is, what course shall we pursue to induce our ministers and brethren to go to work actively in showing our congregations the importance of bringing up their children to reverence the Sabbath. It seems to have escaped the minds of many that there is one day out of seven that God has set apart for his own use. Six days he allows us to engage in our various occupations, the seventh he has commanded us to keep holy. If we look to the plain teachings of our Bible, we can find no excuse for not obeying this holy injunction. There is every reason why we should meet the children, that are soon to take our places as men and women, on the Sabbath, to train their young and tender minds in the way of godliness, and to reverence the day which God has commanded us to keep holy. We know that one of the reasons why Sabbath Schools are so much neglected is, persons do not wish to deprive themselves of any fancied enjoyment that they may secure to themselves by spending this day according to their own notions; forgetting that if, from regard to God's Sabbath, we deny ourselves, he will more than pay us. Surely in keeping God's statutes there is great reward. Therefore,

Resolved, That we do most earnestly recommend all our ministers to endeavor to establish a Sabbath School in each of our Churches. Respectfully submitted.

J. McCULLOCH, *Chairman.*

The committee on Home Missions handed in their report, which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

We conceive that no means are better calculated to unite the different sections of the country, and bring the isolated and less favored parts of our land under religious influence than Home Missions; but we are sorry to say that the activity and zeal of the Denomination, in this matter, has not been equal to the great end desired. We find that the efforts on the part of the ministers and church to raise a fund sufficient to conduct a Home Mission successfully, have been very weak. We have no new plan to report by which to raise funds, but would urge greater industry and perseverance upon the present plan. Many inviting fields offer inducements which might yield a rich harvest if early attended to.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

The following resolution passed unanimously:

Resolved, That the thanks of Conference are due, and are hereby tendered to its officers for their faithful discharge of duty.

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three to report upon the expediency of procuring a circulating library. Whereupon the President appointed J. N. Manning, J. McCulloch and E. W. Beale.

Conference then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M.

October 11, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened and proceeded to business.

The hour having arrived for special prayer meeting in behalf of our suffering country, several able and fervent prayers were offered.

Resolved, That Bro. J. Goodrich be encouraged to improve himself a while longer before ordination.

The committee on ministerial supply, offered the following report, which was accepted and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee on Ministerial Supply, submit the following report:

Dan River Association,	Dist. No.	1.	Wm. S. Long.
Tar River	" "	2.	
New Hope,	" "	3.	T. J. Fowler, J. R. Holt.
Middle Creek,	" "	4.	D. T. Deanes.
Cape Fear,	" "	5.	J. N. Farrell.
Moore,	" "	6.	
Deep River,	" "	7.	W. D. Moffit.
Haw River,	" "	8.	E. W. Beale, A. G. Anderson.
Shallow Ford,	" "	9.	P. W. Allen.
Salem Chapel,	" "	10.	G. G. Walker.
Lebanon,	" "	11.	Solomon Apple.
Newbern,	" "	12.	
Wilmington,	" "	13.	
Union, Alamance,	"	14.	Alfred Iseley.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. McCulloch, *Chairman.*

The committee on the character and standing of ministers, again offered their report, which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee on the character and standing of the the ministry beg leave to report: That we find the following brethren in good standing: G. G. Walker, J. W. Wellons, D. T. Deanes, W. N. Bragg, T. G. Craven, J. McCulloch, T. J. Fowler, H. B. Hayes, J. N. Manning, S. Apple, A. Franks, J. R. Holt, J. N. Far-

rell, P. W. Allen, R. G. Tinnin, W. M. Craven, J. Albright, A. Iseley, A. Apple, L. Lambeth, W. Rollins, A. G. Anderson, A. S. Nelson, Thomas Truitt, A. Craven, Chastien Allen, J. S. Swift, W. S. Long, J. Goodrich, C. A. Apple, L. C. Madison, A. T. Rich, Abner Apple, J. S. Lawrence, W. K. Martin, P. A. Jones, W. D. Moffit, W. H. Franks, C. A. Boon, E. W. Beale.

Your committee would recommend, that when a minister shall fail to report himself, personally or by letter, for more than three years successively, his name shall be dropped from the minutes of Conference, provided, when a satisfactory explanation is given he shall be restored. Respectfully submitted.

J. W. Boyd, *Chairman.*

The committee on Finance reported, which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee on Finance beg leave to report: That we have examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and we find him charged as follows:

To cash on hand, 1861,		$77 35
To cash received, 1862,		57 35
		134 70
—Less—		
By cash paid for Minutes,	$45 00	
By amount deducted for error,	10 00	
		55 00
Balance on hand,		$79 70

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. APPLE, *Chairman.*

The committee on Statistics then reported, which was received and adopted. Vide Appendix.

On motion, the publication of the Minutes of Conference was referred to the Conference committee.

Resolved, That Friday before the first Sabbath in May, and Friday before the first Sabbath in September, be held as days of fasting, humiliation and prayer by our Conference.

The committee to whom was referred the expediency of raising a Library, reported, which was received and adopted.

REPORT,

The committee to whom was referred the resolution to inquire into the expediency of providing a Circulating Library, report, that they think it very expedient indeed, to raise a library as large as possible, for the benefit of Ministers in the Christian denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the President appoint a committee of three, to devise a plan for procuring and dispersing of a circulating library, and report at our next Conference.

Committee appointed, J. N. Manning, W. S. Long, E. W. Beale.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this body be tendered to the brethren and friends around Damascus for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this Conference during the present session.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Conference be faithfully recorded.

On motion, J. N. Manning was elected Recording Secretary.

On motion, the difficulties connected with Mount Zion Church was referred to a special committee, viz: E. W. Beale, A. Iseley, P. R. Harden.

On motion, W. S. Long was requested to prepare the Minutes for the press.

[The President failed to appoint a committee on Pe-

riodicals, and the committee appointed on Temperance failed to report. *Sec.*]

Having had a small but interesting and harmonious session, Conference adjourned, to meet at New Providence, Alamance county, N. C., on Wednesday before the second Sabbath in October, 1863. Singing, and prayer by Elder T. J. Fowler,

SOLOMON APPLE, *President.*
W. H. MARTIN, *Vice President.*

W. S. Long, *Secretary,*
C. A. Apple, *Ass't Secretary,*

APPENDIX.

Here we give the names of all the Churches which sent up money for the Conference Fund:

Pope's Chapel,	$7 20
Pleasant Grove, Va.	5 00
Oak Level,	3 75
New Providence,	5 00
Lebanon,	7 00
Mount Zion,	2 00
Mount Auburn,	8 40
Hank's Chapel,	7 00
O'Kelley's Chapel,	5 00
Pleasant Hill,	2 00
Damascus,	5 00
	$57 35

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Lay Delegates.	Rec'd.	Rem'd.	Died.	Expell'd	No. of members
O'Kelley's,	T. J. Fowler,	S. Barbee,					
		J. F. O'Kelley,					
		A. M. Carlton,	6		2	2	136
Pleasant Spring,	J. N. Ferrel,	J. A. McLain,					
		A. S. Utley,	1		2	1	80
Shady Grove,	T. G. Craven.	D. B. McLead,					
		J. Moore,			3		33
Salem Chapel,	B. N. Hopkins,	J. T. W. Davis,					
		J. Freeman,					
		T. Fulp,				3	123
Pope's Chapel,	J. N. Manning,	C. Sandling,					
		J. G. Ursrey,					
		M. C. Winston,	11				148
Zion,	Wm. Rollins,	Wm. Dicken,					
		J. McIver,	20				118
Lebanon,	Solomon Apple,	J. W. McLain,	3		1	1	43
New Providence,	G. W. Beale,	J. H. Long,					
		J. G. Long,	16		5		265
Pl't Grove, N. C.	J. N. Ferrel,	W. C. Wilson,					
		C. Ellis,	9		1		65
Shallow Ford,	T. J. Fowler,			1	1		52
Damascus,		J. Couch,					
		G. Nevil,		5	3		74
Pleasant Hill,	J. N. Ferrel,	D. Boyd,					
		J. F. Jearnigan,	5		9	1	35
Park's Stand,	P. W. Allen,		10				12
Pleas't Grove, Va.	W. S. Long,	J. W. Boyd,	7		2		66
Hine's Chapel,	B. N. Hopkins,	T. Waynick,					
		J. Gant,			3		38
Oak Level,	J. N. Manning,	J. Blackley,					
		T. Winston,			2		35
Brown's Chapel,	B. N. Hopkins,				1		17
Mount Bethel,	B. N. Hopkins,	Dr. J. Strader,					
		W. A. Barham,			1		51
Brown's,	A. S. Nelson,		9			1	24
Shiloh, N. C.	D. T. Deanes,				1		56
Union, Va.	W. S. Long,	Capt. R. Tuck,					
		R. T. Wilkins,					
		C. H. Winfree,					138

Mount Auburn,	J. N. Manning,	S. H. Turner,					
		J. H. Fleming,					72
Good Hope,	J. N. Manning,	D. Bragg,					
		J. F. Dilliard,	5				72
Liberty Hill,	J. N. Manning,	C. E. Ayrene,	4				15
Fuller's,	J. N. Manning,	Jas. O. Coghill,					36
			106	6	30	9	1804

The following Churches not being represented, the statistics of last year are appended:

Moore Union,	20	Ebenezer,	50
Shiloh, Va,	5	Grant's Chapel,	6
Hanks's Chapel,	180	Pine Ridge,	6
Christian Chapel,	130	Union, Alamance,	475
Shallow Well,	93	Apple's Chapel,	75
Midway,	52	Mount Zion,	75
Bethel,	43	Concord,	25
Antioch,	40	Reece's,	50
Pleasant Grove,	117	Liberty,	10
Pleasant Ridge,	56	Utley's School House,	18
Newbern,	184	Liberty Grove,	9
Christian Union,	81	Pleasant Hill, Johnston,	34
Bethlehem,	100		
Wake Chapel,	84		2041
Acorn Ridge,	12	Members from table above,	1804
Parks's Cross Roads,	11		
		Total number of members,	3845